

Jones, Reynolds

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Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Charles Reynolds Jones

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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Also see Lincolniana Books

1955-11

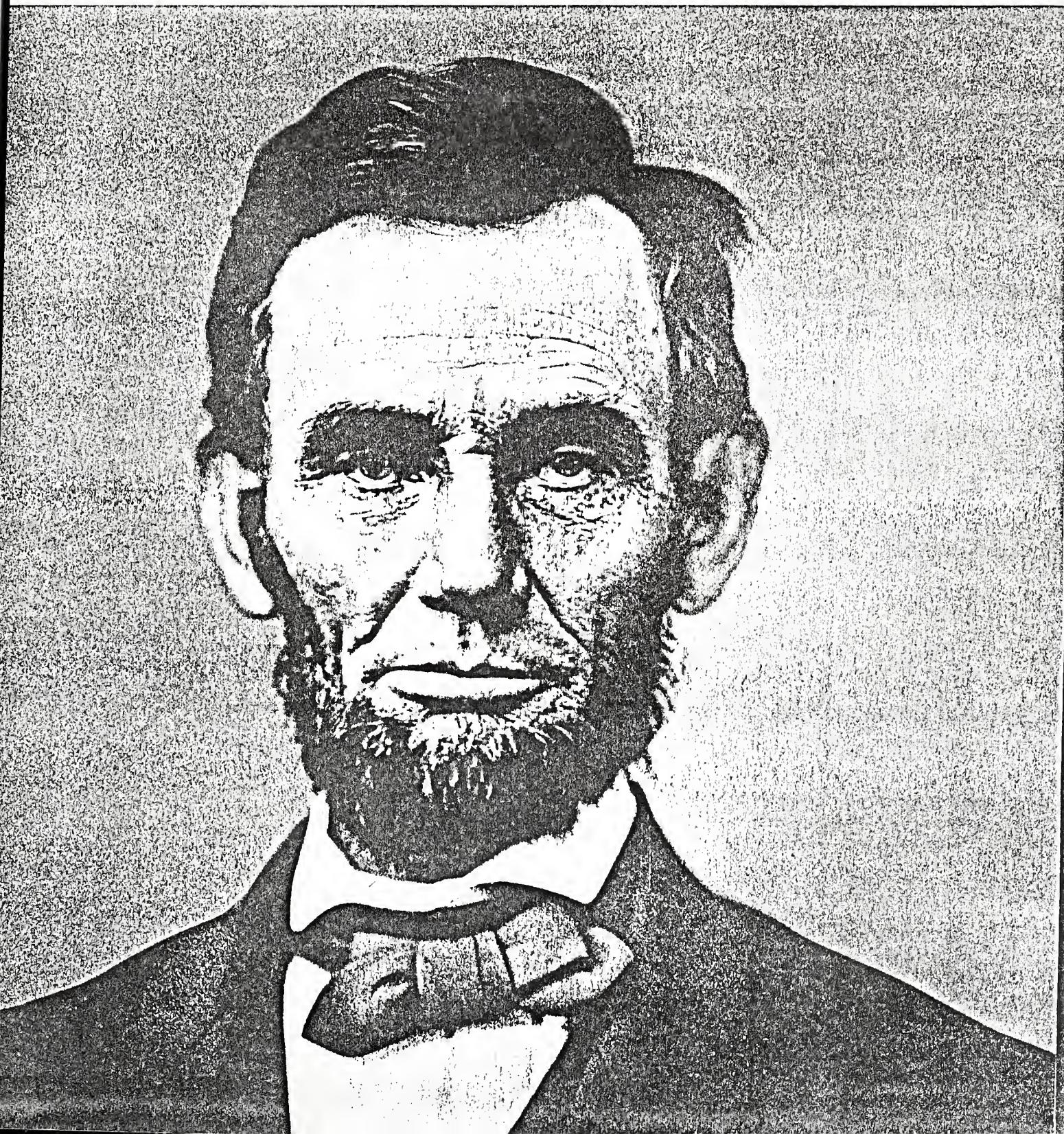
author: Chicago & Illinois



CIMCO News

February 1955

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



*See Lincolniana books -
Author-Chicago & Illinois
1-155...13*

Reynolds Jones--Artist



Reynolds Jones has been associated with the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company as the artist in the production of the paintings for the company's annual Lincoln calendar for the last eight years. He was born in Springfield, Illinois, and educated in the Hay Edwards grade school and the High School, both in Springfield, and attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Illinois.

After completing his High School education he worked for a short time as window trimmer and show card writer in a Springfield Department Store.

Following the completion of his studies in the American Academy of Art, he handled publicity, promotion and advertising for the Blackhawk Restaurant and the Aragon and Trianon Ballrooms in Chicago. Later he did promotion illustration and display advertising for the Music Corporation of America. The first painting he sold was a portrait of the Orchestra leader, Mr. Hal Kemp, now deceased. When the portrait was delivered to Mr. Kemp he was so pleased with it he paid Mr. Jones double the price they had agreed upon in advance.

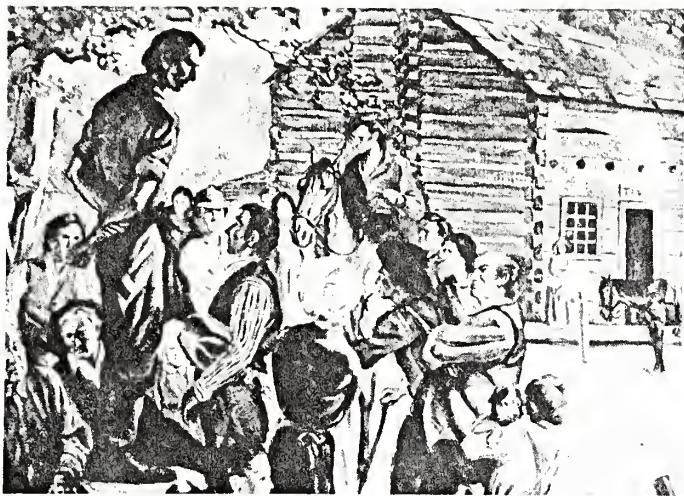
From 1934 to 1940 Laddie Jones, as he is familiarly known, maintained his own studio in Chicago. Those years were devoted to advertising illustration and magazine story illustration, including both women's and men's fashion illustration, as well as outdoor advertising for billboards. The "best seller" book, "Doctor, Here's Your Hat," by Dr. Joseph A. Jerger, carried illustrations by Jones.

Strangely enough, as the result of meeting Jimmy Christy, another hopeful artist whose main talent seemed to be boxing, several of the following years were devoted to managing Christy, a contender for the Featherweight Boxing Championship.

In November 1940 Laddie married Bonnie E. Wanless of Springfield. There followed some years of life on a cattle ranch in New Mexico, and then Hollywood and San Fernando Valley for six years. In the meantime the marriage was blessed in 1945 through the birth of a daughter, Sandra Gail. During these years Jones did illustrations and paintings for national advertising campaigns of the Ryan Aeronautical Company, North American Aviation, and a series of horse paintings for Courley Men's Toiletries.

Being a lover of animal life and the great open spaces, the family moved in 1947 to New Mexico where they established their home at an altitude of seven thousand feet in the Sierra Blanca mountains near Ruidoso.

Subsequently his work took a definite turn to the western influence and, with the exception of the Lincoln paintings, has been almost entirely dedicated to the depiction of cowboy life, wildlife, and paintings of horses, from the rugged cowpony on through to the thoroughbred.



Lincoln, the Campaigner

AT NEW SALEM, flatboatman Lincoln learned how to get and hold the confidence of the people. In his first campaign for the legislature in 1832 he was defeated but he carried his own New Salem precinct with a vote of 300 to 277. This was the only time, Lincoln said later, that he was ever defeated by a direct vote of the people. In 1834 he was a candidate once more and this time he won. Thereafter he was re-elected three times, then refused further nomination in order that he might build up his law practice and prepare his way for election to Congress. As a politician, stumping the country towns, Lincoln had learned that a successful idealist must be practical. To lead the people he must know the people. To enact a legislative program he must employ skill and compromise. With his feet always squarely on the ground, Lincoln proved by his own example that a great politician is also a great statesman.

J. MONAGHAN, State Historian,
State of Illinois.

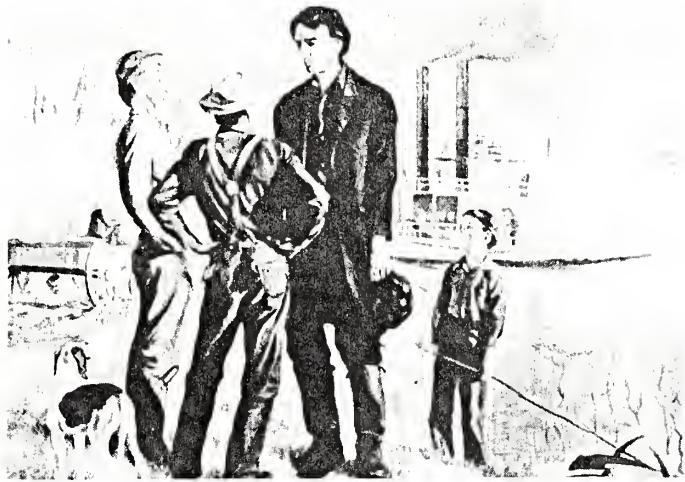




Goin' Fishin'

JACK KELSO liked to fish, and to read and recite Robert Burns and Shakespeare. With him Lincoln found "sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and good in everything." Kelso's house (in the background) was the only duplex in New Salem. He and his wife occupied the left hand cabin. His wife's sister, Mrs. Joshua Miller, had married the blacksmith and they lived next door, across the "dog trot."

J. MONAGHAN, Historian,
State of Illinois.



Lincoln, the Pilot

AFTER two flatboat trips to New Orleans, twenty-two year old Abe Lincoln qualified as a riverman. Early in the spring of 1832 he helped pilot the "Talisman" almost a hundred miles up the Illinois and Sangamon Rivers from Beardstown to within six miles of Springfield. Long-handled axes were necessary for cutting overhanging limbs. The steamboat tied up at New Salem to unload cargo and Lincoln conversed with old friends.

The "Talisman" was a 150-ton, upper cabin steamer approximately 136 feet long, with a beam of 48 feet. At Portland Landing, her destination near Springfield, the "Talisman" could not turn around in the narrow river. Crewmen steered her backward for some distance downstream. Gravel bars obstructed the channel; low water after the spring freshet barely floated her to the Illinois River. The owners never risked another trip.

For his work aboard the "Talisman" Lincoln received \$40 and some good experience which may have helped him years later to pilot the ship of state.

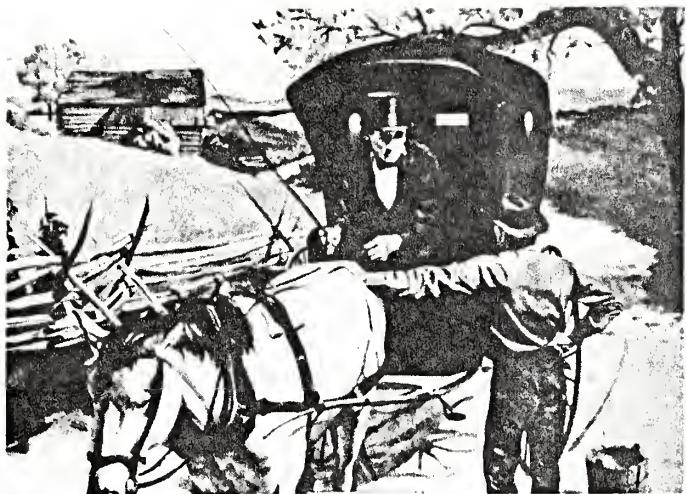
J. MONAGHAN,
State Historian of Illinois.



Lincoln and Mary Owens

A YEAR after Ann Rutledge's death in 1835, Lincoln had a love affair with Mary Owens, a Kentuckian. He was twenty-seven, she twenty-eight. In fun, Lincoln promised her sister to marry Mary if she would come to New Salem but he was shocked at her arrival. To a friend he wrote, "When I beheld her, I could not for my life avoid thinking of my mother; from her want of teeth, weather-beaten appearance in general, and from a kind of notion that ran in my head that *nothing* could have commenced at the size of infancy, and reached her present bulk in less than thirty-five or forty years." Abiding by his promise, Lincoln proposed, but to the amazement Mary Owens turned him down, not once but again and again. Finally Lincoln confessed confidentially: "Others have been made fools of by the girls; but this can never be with truth said of me—I most emphatically, in this instance, made a fool of myself."

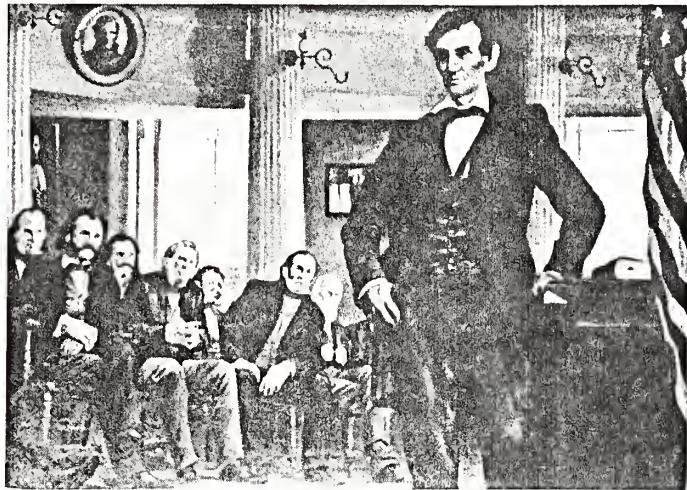
J. MONAGHAN,
State Historian of Illinois.



Lincoln, the Circuit Rider

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, prominent country lawyer, sawed his own wood, milked his cow, and curried his horse. Many months each year he lived away from home attending court throughout the Eighth Judicial Circuit. He learned to know the people, to call them by their first names, and to listen to their problems. Farmers trusted the plain man who jogged along Illinois' dirt roads in a one-hoss shay, who took time to ask about the crops, the children, the price of hogs, and the best man to send to Congress.

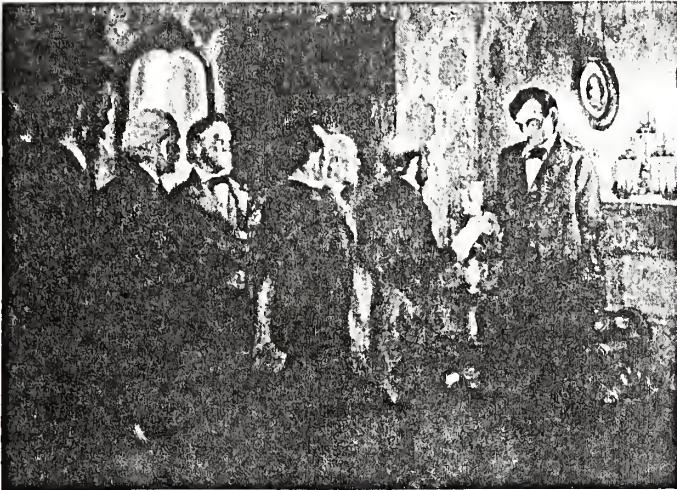
J. MONAGHAN,
Springfield, Illinois.



Abraham Lincoln, Candidate

IN 1858 the members of the Illinois General Assembly appraised Abraham Lincoln with critical eyes. On them rested the duty of electing a United States Senator, and Lincoln had been nominated by the Republican State Central Committee for the post. The legislators had watched him grow from a rail-splitting flatboatman to a leading lawyer. Their assembly hall of that day is now the Sangamon County Courthouse in Springfield, Illinois, and the old legislative chamber shown in this picture is still in use as the Circuit Court Room. It was in the atmosphere and the now famous room here pictured, that Lincoln accepted, on the evening of June 16, 1858, the Republican nomination with a speech that electrified the nation. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," he quoted from the Bible, and added, "I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided." These words are the basis of Lincoln's immortality.

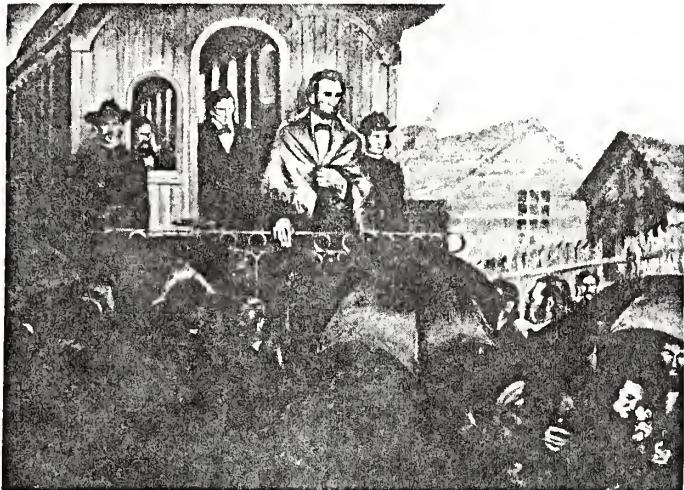
JAY MONAGHAN,
Historian.



Lincoln, for President

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK on the evening of May 19, 1860, a committee from the recent Republican National Convention called at Lincoln's Springfield home to notify him that he had been nominated for the Presidency of the United States. Many of the committeemen had preferred a different candidate so they watched the awkward, prairie lawyer critically. The chairman, George Ashmun from Massachusetts, handed Lincoln an official letter of notification and recited a short speech. When he had finished, Lincoln raised his head to reply. The delegates watched his solemn, cadaverous face light with intelligence and strength. They saw at once that this downstate politician was master of any situation and — better still — of himself. Walking away from Lincoln's home, two of the committeemen who had originally voted against the Rail Splitter compared impressions of the candidate and admitted their earlier mistake. Pennsylvania's representative, Judge W. D. ("Pig Iron") Kelley, said to Carl Schurz, Wisconsin German: "We could certainly not have done a better thing." Posterity agrees!

JAY MONAGHAN,
Consultant, Wyles Collection of
Lincoliniana, Library, University
of California, Santa Barbara
College, Santa Barbara.



Farewell to Illinois

ON THE DAY before his fifty-second birthday, Abraham Lincoln left Springfield for Washington. Among the comparatively unknown friends and small military escort accompanying him were a country judge who later served as a Justice of the Supreme Court, and a young man who would become Ambassador to Great Britain and also Secretary of State. Three of the soldiers were destined to be major generals. Two others would die in battle. Lincoln, himself, had trudged into Springfield thirty years before, a "hired hand" making \$12.00 per month. Now he was leaving to assume the Presidency of the United States. America was drifting unmistakably into a civil war. One section of the country believed that some men should be chained permanently as laborers while others should control all the capital. Lincoln believed that every man should have the opportunity to become a capitalist through his own industry and initiative. On this issue the first great experiment in democracy was to be tested. The "task before me," Lincoln told his fellow townsmen as he stood on the rear platform of the departing train, "is greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail." This was the last time Lincoln's voice was heard in Springfield.

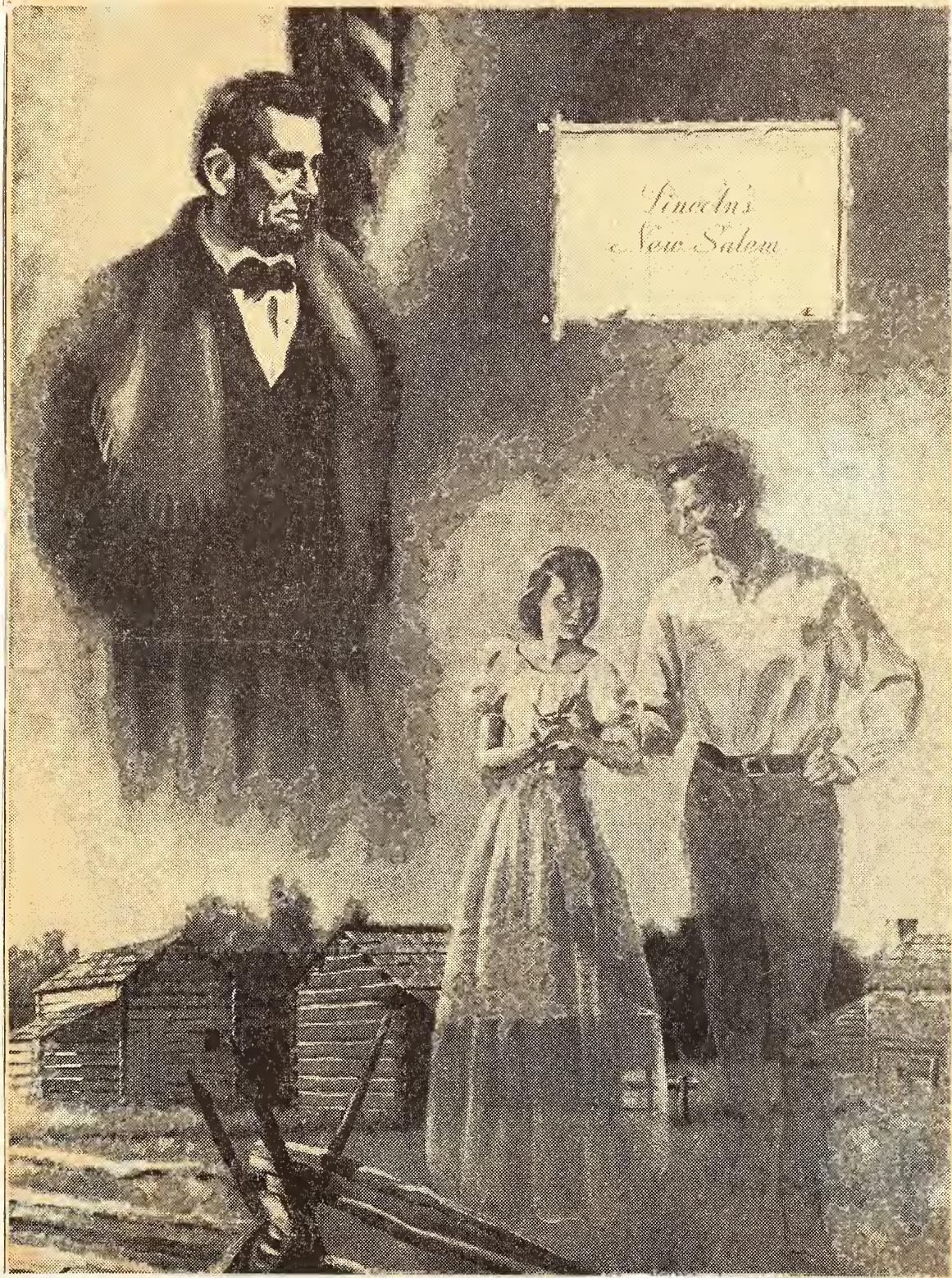
JAY MONAGHAN,
Consultant, Wyles Collection of
Lincolniana, Library, University
of California, Santa Barbara
College, Santa Barbara.

(Painter)
Jones, Reynolds

also see Large print drawer-Calendars

Lincoln At New Salem

His Spirit Will Be There Tomorrow



How often during the war torn years of his presidency did Abraham Lincoln look back on his peaceful life at New Salem? Reynolds Jones, commercial artist of this city, has caught that question in a painting, done in black and white oils for The State Journal, and reproduced above.

In the background, behind the

filmy figures of Lincoln and Ann Rutledge, is part of New Salem, with the Hill-McNamara store, where Abraham Lincoln served as postmaster, in the center. Herbert Georg, photographer, co-operated with Jones by allowing the artist full use of his extensive collection of Lincoln and New Salem photographs. The painting, 18 x 22 in size, will be

redone in colors, and will be placed on view later.

A photograph of the work has been presented to Hugh Studebaker, radio actor, and expert on Lincolniana who has termed the picture the finest Lincoln painting he has seen. The photograph will be in the studio this afternoon when Studebaker portrays Lincoln in a nation-wide broadcast.

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